1. (Currently Amended) A locking mechanism for use in combination with and for preventing unintended disconnection of a generally horizontal beam from a vertical support post, said post having an array of vertically elongated first openings and said horizontal beam having an end flange arranged to overlap said first openings, said flange having slots, a front face and a back face, lugs projecting from the front face of said flange into said first openings and a second opening above one of said lugs, said beam and said flange being vertically shiftable between a raised position at which said lugs are freely moveable into and out of upper portions of said first openings, and a lowered position at which said lugs are interlocked with said post in lower portions of said first openings, said locking mechanism comprising:

a resilient plate;

connecting means for securing said plate to the back face of said flange, said connecting means comprising tabs on said plate, said tabs being adapted to be received in and deformed into interlocked engagement within the slots in said flange; and

a pin projecting from the mid-portion of said plate and adapted to project through the second opening in said flange and beyond the front face of said flange, said plate being resiliently deflectable to accommodate retraction of said pin into said second opening when said lugs are aligned with the upper portions of said first openings, and to urge said pin into the upper portion of one of said first openings when said lugs are shifted to the lower portions of said first openings, said plate having at least one peripheral deformation configured to coact with said flange in defining a pocket for receiving a tool used to resiliently deflect said plate in order to retract said pin into said second opening.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The locking mechanism of claim 1 wherein said tabs are movable within said slots to accommodate deflection of said plate relative to said flange.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The locking mechanism in accordance with claim1 wherein said at least one peripheral deformation is aligned laterally with said pin.